

Remarks/Arguments:

The applicants and their representative have reviewed the Office Action of November 4, 2004, and provide the above amendment in conjunction with these remarks. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 is respectfully requested in light thereof.

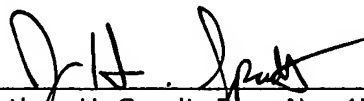
Preliminarily, it is noted that claims 21-23 and 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Wilson *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,425,898). Claim 24 was not, however, rejected in light of Wilson, which the Office Action admitted does not teach a stent mounted on mounting rings with ridges to enhance stent retention. The applicants have accordingly cancelled dependent claim 24 and amended claim 21 to include the limitations of claim 24. Amended claim 21 therefore recites that the catheter provided has "a stent mounted around the inner shaft and on a mounting ring having a ridge, the stent having a proximal strand extending around a portion of the ridge . . ." Because the language added to claim 21 was taken from original claim 24, the proposed amendment raises no new issues and requires no additional search by the Examiner. Furthermore, because claims 22, 23, and 25-27 all depend ultimately from claim 21, withdrawal of all rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

Because claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Wilson in view of Ravenscroft *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,702,418), its limitations and patentability in light thereof will now be addressed with respect to claim 21. The applicants respectfully submit that any rejection of amended claim 21 would be improper in view of Wilson and Ravenscroft for at least the following reason.

The stent delivery system of Ravenscroft employs a smooth mounting ring and not a mounting ring having a ridge. Figure 3 of Ravenscroft, for example, shows rings 23" integrally formed with, and extending from, plastic core 17, but those rings have no ridges. Claim 21 requires that the ring has a ridge. On the other hand, even if one were tempted to interpret rings 23" as being the ridges, and core 17 as being the ring, one still cannot say that the stent has a "strand extending around a portion of the ridge" as is claimed in claim 21. Figure 3 of Ravenscroft shows ring 23" compressing a strand against the inner wall of sheath 24.

For the reasons presented above, the applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 21 is neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited art. Because the language added to Claim 21 is taken from original claim 24, which is now cancelled, no new issues are raised by this amendment and no new search of the art is required. The applicants therefore submit that claims 21-23 and 25-27 are in condition for allowance and request early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,



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